



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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**Contact:** Nancy Singer (202) 205-6740

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## ***SBA URGES PUBLIC COMMENT ON INTERIM RULE AFFECTING VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES***

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) urged public comment on an interim rule that amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and establishes federal procurement goals for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

The FAR will consider all comments on the interim rule submitted on or before December 11, 2000 in drafting the final rule.

**“The SBA wants to ensure that the final rule reflects the true interests of the veterans community,”** SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez said. **“Now is the time for veterans to let their voices be heard on critical federal regulatory action that will impact the future of their small businesses.”**

The interim rule will implement portions of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act, Public Law 106-50, which President Clinton signed into law in August 1999. Among other requirements, the act establishes additional procurement assistance for veterans, including a 3 percent government-contracting goal for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. It requires the head of each federal agency to take the necessary steps to establish the 3 percent goal in that agency’s prime contract and subcontract awards.

Veteran-owned small businesses currently can register in PRO-Net, SBA’s procurement database, at <http://pro-net.sba.gov/>.

As part of the implementation of the act, the SBA established the Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD), earlier this year, to expand access to technical assistance programs for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, promote outreach to the veterans community, and establish a network of information resources for veterans. The agency also signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Association of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) to step up efforts to publicize the programs and services available to veteran-owned small businesses.

For more information on the interim rule, and to obtain the appropriate contact information to submit comments, please see [www.sba.gov/vets/](http://www.sba.gov/vets/).

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site at <http://www.sba.gov> or by calling the SBA's Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA.*

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